Outfitting Women for Work

CityTeam @ Work has made the commitment to expand support for women seeking economic independence by improving our on-site career clothing closet, Hangers for Hope. The goal of expanding our clothing closet is for CityTeam women's program residents to have a positive experience preparing for job interviews, while also having the appropriate career attire in the first critical months of their new employment.

The Need

CityTeam's @ Work program believes that education and training are a key part of the solution to homelessness. CityTeam @ Work provides an individualized approach to equip women in CityTeam's Renew programs to obtain living wage jobs and help them find permanent, stable housing. It is our goal to make an impact that lasts a lifetime for our residents.

Our Hangers for Hope closet plays a key role in the process to equip women with the necessary attire to secure and maintain their employment. Santa Clara County offers very few programs that help women in this stage of their recovery. Programs that are offered to women often require transportation or limited time availability to participate which creates hurdles for CityTeam's residents. Often job interviews are scheduled within 24-48 hours which requires prompt preparedness. Having these resources on site alleviates this hurdle and allows the women the opportunity to work with a volunteer or program staff member to create a positive and dignifying experience.

Join CityTeam's Women of Impact Project

<u>CityTeam's Women of Impact</u> has adopted this important project as an investment into the women we serve at CityTeam's programs for women.

Our Women of Impact team had planned to host an event on April 21, 2020 to gather passionate women to support this important project. Though we are now unable to be together in person for this inspiring evening, we did not want social distancing guidelines to prevent us from continuing this critical fundraising endeavor. Now, more than ever, we want to continue our efforts of creating a positive experience for women seeking employment, especially during this unprecedented time.

A Special Opportunity to Help

We are calling this campaign Hangers for Hope because of our sincere desire to bring hope to our women who have faced tremendous obstacles. Many have worked hard to make a radical change in their lives, and we want to support them every step of the way.

Our Collaborative Plan

The first phase of this project is to raise the capital investment of \$25,000 to renovate, design and establish a fund for women's work attire. With these funds, the space will be transformed into a boutique style storefront organized to fit our client's needs; and for

funds to be designated for garments that are not typically available, such as trade clothing like scrubs, boots, slide-proof shoes, etc.

CityTeam's Women of Impact is seeking 50 dedicated donors to make a gift of \$500 toward this important project. By making a gift of this amount or above we would like to gift you a golden hanger to commemorate someone who has personally taught you about style, or in honor of a woman in our program who has inspired you.

The second phase of this campaign will recruit key volunteers to provide: Career closet "buyers" when clothing needs are unavailable.

- One-on-one style consultants for women seeking employment.
- Mock interviews with clients.
- Organizing clothing donations.
- Advocating to expand clothing donation partnerships.

Hangers for Hope Goal: Help Raise \$25,000 by July 15

Today, CityTeam is serving more women in more ways than ever before in our 62-year history. Our tireless staff and dedicated volunteers are helping women of all ages and life crises, renew, and transform their lives. The generous gifts from like-minded supporters makes our work possible. Please contact Sara Maier (smaier@cityteam.org) with any questions about this campaign.